

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02974 141808Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-03  
AF-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00  
SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 EURE-00 /105 W  
-----141810Z 074906 /46

P R 141725Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0955  
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2974

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO  
SUBJ: SOCIALIST FIRM UP LABOR POLICY

REF: LISBON 2597 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP ISSUED AN IMPORTANT STATE-  
MENT APR 13 DEFINING PARTY'S LABOR POLICY IN OPPOSITION TO THE COM-  
MUNIST-DOMINATED CGTP. END SUMMARY.

1. PS LABOR DECISIONS: THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) NATIONAL  
SECRETARIAT AND DIRECTING COMMITTEE MET APR 13 TO DISCUSS THE  
PARTY'S LABOR STRATEGY. MARIO SOARES AND LABOR MINISTER  
MALDONALDO GONELHA PARTICIPATED IN THE SESSION WHICH USED  
MALDONADO GONELHA'S LABOR POLICY PAPER (REFTEL) AS ITS  
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POINT OF DEPARTURE. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE PS ANNOUNCED  
THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:  
-- DANGER FROM PCP HEGEMONY: THE ANARCHY AND DISORIENTATION OF  
THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE HEGEMONY OF THE PCP LINE ON LABOR  
CONSTITUTE A GREAT DANGER FOR PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY.  
-- PS OFFENSIVE: THE PS WILL CONDUCT A MAJOR CAMPAIGN  
AMONG TRADE UNION MEMBERS, ENGAGING ALL PS MEMBERS IN THE

EFFORT. LOCAL PS ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE MOBILIZED FOR THE TRADE UNION OFFENSIVE.

-- TRAINING INSTITUTE: THE PS WILL ESTABLISH IMMEDIATELY THE JOSE FONTANA INSTITUTE FOR TRADE UNION EDUCATION (INSTITUTO DE FORMACAO SINDICAL).

-- REBUKING SOCIALIST IN CGTP: THE PS SUPPORTS THE "OPEN LETTER" MOVEMENT AND CENSURES "NOMINAL" SOCIALIST PARTICIPATING IN THE PCP-DOMINATED CGTP, "A MOVEMENT OF LENINIST AND TOTALITARIAN INSPIRATION."

-- ENCOURAGE COMPETITIVE UNIONS: THE PS WILL ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IN SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, WHERE EXISTING UNIONS WITH A TOTALITARIAN STRUCTURE SERVE AS TRANSMISSION BELTS FOR THE PCP.

-- ENCOURAGE PS LOCALS: ENCOURAGE AND COORDINATE PS GROUPS IN INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES. THE PS GROUPS WILL SERVE TO DYNAMIZE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS AND CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM.

-- NEW LEGISLATION: THE PS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WILL PROPOSE NEW LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO ASSURE GREATER INTERNAL DEMOCRACY IN TRADE UNIONS.

-- MAY 1 MEETING: THE PS WILL HOLD A MAY 1 NATIONAL MEETING OF SOCIALIST WORKERS IN OPORTO.

-- SECOND LABOR CONFEDERATION: CONDITIONS ARE NOT RIPE FOR FORMING A DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION IN OPPOSITION TO THE CGTP. THE PS REJECTS PCP AND CGTP HEGEMONY IN TRADE UNIONS AS NON-REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORKERS.

2. PS LEADERS COMMENT: SOARES TOLD AMB APR 14 THAT DOCUMENT WAS ONE OF "THE MOST IMPORTANT" AND CONSTITUTED AN "OPEN DECLARATION OF WAR ON INTERSINDICAL." LABOR MINISTER  
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MALDONADO GONELHA COMMENTED AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE MOMENT HAD ARRIVED FOR THE PS TO REORGANIZE AND RETHINK ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. MALDONADO SAID THAT THE PS PROPOSALS FOR LABOR STRATEGY ARE NOW BEING SUBMITTED TO THE RANK-AND-FILE FOR THEIR VIEWS. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET TO GIVE ITS FINAL APPROVAL. RUI MATEUS TOLD POLCOUNS APR 13 THAT MOST IMPORTANT NEW LEGISLATION TO BE SUBMITTED BY PS WOULD BE PROVISION FOR UNION ELECTIONS DURING WORKING HOURS AT PLACE OF WORK.

3. COMMENT: THE PS STATEMENT IS ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT PARTY LEADERSHIP, AFTER MANY DELAYS, HAS FINALLY FOCUSED ON THE PARTY'S LONG-STANDING LACK OF A CLEARLY DEFINED LABOR POLICY. THE STATEMENT REFLECTS MALDONADO GONELHA'S "CAN DO" APPROACH.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOCIALIST FIRM UP LABOR POLICY  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELAB, PO  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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